

June 13, 2005  
Work Session-Budget

Minutes

Members present

D.C. Swaim- Chairman  
Brady Wooten- Vice- Chairman  
Leon Casstevens- Commissioner  
Kim Clark Phillips- Commissioner  
Allen Sneed- Commissioner

Others Present

Cecil E. Wood- County Manager  
Melinda Vestal-Clerk to the Board

Chairman Swaim called the recessed meeting back to order.

**Budget**

The Board discussed the fire departments and their requests. The Board requested to meet with the fire departments who are requesting an increase in their fire tax rate; Yadkinville, Courtney and Lone Hickory.

The Board talked with the following departments:

- Fire Marshal- Eddie Weatherman
- Health – Mike Reavis
- Veteran Services- Chuck Knight
- Social Services- Eddie Wooten
- Board of Education- Karin Mendenhall

The Board discussed the number of inspections performed yearly by the Fire Marshal. They requested Mr. Weatherman supply them with a list of establishments and how often they have to be inspected.

The Board discussed the recommendations from the state regarding the salaries for the Health Department.

Dr. Keith Phillips, Chairman of the Board of Health, stated the role of commissioners is not the budget but the welfare of the citizens of Yadkin County. The Board of Health has spent many hours working on the budget to make services available for the citizens. If there are any more cuts made to the budget, it will have to be personnel which takes away from providing services to the citizens adequately.

Chuck Knight, Veteran Service Officer, informed the Board that nine full scholarships were given to children of Veterans. He commented that since making this position full-time, the money has tripled coming in the county for the Veterans. Yadkin County has approximately 3,500 Veterans, plus widows and children. Mr. Knight stated he would like to request an assistant.

Eddie Wooten, DSS Director and Renee Hunter, Administrative Assistant, discussed the budget for DSS.

Mr. Wood stated many of the DSS employees work in more than one program, where in other counties this same person would only be designated for one program. DSS is audited not only how money is spent but for the number of positions in a program. It takes many people to run the programs provided. These programs have time constraints as mandated by the state and federal.

Karin Mendenhall, Chair of BOE, presented the budget for the schools. She stated that \$6,452,437 was submitted it has now been reduced to \$6,100,000. There have been no new programs added and no new teachers. The schools have supplemented their budgets in the past with the fund balance. She commented the facilities are getting older and upkeep costs continue to rise. Ms. Mendenhall stated that this year the system will have to build new facilities or purchase more mobile units due to the lack of space of classrooms.

The Board discussed Low Wealth Funds and the Public School Bond funds.

Ms. Mendenhall stated the funds would be released with the loan. She stated the same plans would be used for the proposed buildings. The plans would have to be rebid.

Commissioner Wooten inquired about fines and forfeitures and if they could be designated to make improvements at the elementary schools.

Ms. Mendenhall stated they could but they are already being used in other areas which would still require funding.

The Board discussed possible grants for furniture and equipment.

Commissioner Casstevens asked how soon would the mobile units be moved out from in front of Forbush?

Ms. Mendenhall stated not until construction was completed because the classroom space would be needed for the beginning of the year.

Mr. Wood stated the budget does not have a tax increase and it has been cut to the point of services and personnel being jeopardized. The budget cuts have been drastic which will impact the departments greatly. The county can use money from the fund balance but that would only last about two months. If this budget is what the Board wishes to

use, then next year's budget will mandate a tax increase of at least five cents per each million used from the fund balance.

Chairman Swaim asked how much of a tax increase would it take to put the 6% back in the budget?

Mr. Wood stated the 6% was about \$2 million which would be a ten cent increase. Mr. Wood suggested the Board bring their concerns about the budget to the meeting Wednesday night.

Mr. Wood stated no one likes tax increases, but the needs of the citizens have to be met. Yadkin County needs to be competitive with surrounding counties to succeed. We have to keep Yadkin County moving forward.

The Board discussed a water/sewer bond.

### **Recess**

**\*Commissioner Sneed made the motion to recess the meeting until Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Commissioner Wooten seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

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Melinda Vestal, Clerk to the Board